

VZCZCXRO3008  
PP RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHPW  
DE RUEHIL #1466 0931435  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 031435Z APR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8140  
INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 2176  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0070  
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU PRIORITY 0109  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4900  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4115  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1257  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2025  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 6978  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5405  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0667  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 4580  
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 2909  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 5397  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 1923  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0211  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2105  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 001466

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: CHIEF JUSTICE UPDATE: MINOR PROTESTS THROUGHOUT  
PAKISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 01456

(SBU) The Supreme Judicial Council deciding the fate of "non-functional" Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry met on April 3 and then adjourned until April 13. Embassy locally engaged staff reported that up to 1,500 protesters, mostly lawyers and political party activists, turned out on Islamabad's Constitution Avenue to protest the government's action against the Chief Justice. In Lahore, close to 1,500 Jama'at Islami party members marched peacefully down the mall to the Punjab High Court, where party leaders Liaqat Baloch and Hafiz Salman Butt gave speeches. Protests were smaller in Peshawar (150-200 people), Karachi (400-500 people), and Quetta (200-300 people). Today's protests did not dominate the morning's papers or the day's TV coverage in Pakistan; news of tribes declaring "jihad" against Uzbeks in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Prime Minister Aziz' participation in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Summit in Delhi garnered equal or more attention.  
BODDE